

# THE SCROLL

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O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL | SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

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## Ban gets mixed reaction

Nick Ratzloff  
Staff Writer

O'Gorman drivers will now have to be aware of the new texting ban in Sioux Falls while they're on the road.

The texting ban prohibits drivers from instant messaging, emailing, texting and browsing the internet within the city limits of Sioux Falls while a part of traffic.

"It's a difficult ban to enforce because it's hard to tell if people are texting," said officer Brian Brink. "Any time you are on the roadways it's a violation."

Previously texting and driving could have been cited for distracted driving, but now Sioux Falls has its own law for texting and driving.

Out of 152 students surveyed, 47 percent of O'Gorman students said they did text and drive before the ban was put into place, while 53 percent of students were not participants in texting and driving.

If people follow the rule, it will be a safer environment for all drivers, said O'Gorman senior Ben Reznicek.

Since the city of Sioux Falls put the texting ban in place there has been a 10 percent increase in the number of O'Gorman drivers



MIRANDA MASEK / KNIGHT SCROLL

Cars leave the O'Gorman parking lot after school on Nov. 14. Many students still admit to texting and driving, even with the new ban in place.

that have stopped texting behind the wheel.

"As a driver's education instructor it's our job to try to teach our students in an instructional class how serious texting and driving is," said Doug Basche, who is one of O'Gorman's driver's education instructors. "If you text and drive you are 23 times more likely to be in a car accident."

Not all students think the ban is necessary, however.

"I think it's useless. It's not as if they can pull you over and take your phone. It can't be enforced in day-to-day driving," said Alex Kost.

Matt Hanson disagrees. "I support it because I don't want someone to wreck my car because they're paying more attention to their phone."

Thomas Motz meanwhile takes a more moderate stance.

"If it wasn't illegal, I would probably text while driving, so I'm thankful for the ban for helping me make better decisions."

Regardless of personal opinion, the ban is actively being enforced.

A driver pulled over for texting and driving can receive a fine of up to \$200.

## Sioux Falls in debate over new indoor pool

Cheyenne Chontos  
Staff Writer

Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation is considering adding a new indoor aquatic center at Spellerberg Park, removing the city's oldest outdoor pool. While some are opposed to the addition of a new indoor pool, others are welcoming the change with open arms.

One of the people in favor of the new indoor pool is Don Kearney, head of Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation. Kearney said that what tends to worry people most is cost, but he believes the value of the pool will outweigh the total cost of building and maintaining the aquatic center.

"This will fulfill a need the community has had for a long, long time," said Kearney. "Currently we believe that the community in large is supportive [of the new pool]."

One of the groups opposing the addition of a new indoor pool is Citizens Saving Spellerberg.

See **SPELLERBERG** page 2

## Bike trail renovations near end; frustrations eased

Abby Baka  
Staff Writer

The wait is almost over for the people of Sioux Falls as the bike trail renovation project nears its end.

Beginning in 2006, one to three of the 20 miles of bike trail have been replaced each year. The construction has caused the need to close parts of the trail and create detours.

"We purposely do only one to three mile segments per year so we don't close too much of the trail down at one time," said Mr. Tory Miedema, the city park development specialist. "It's a balancing act."

The annual budget for segment replacement is \$125,000. The improvements to the segments include widening the trails and fixing drainage problems.

In addition to the segment replacements, several major projects have also disrupted the bike trails.

The levy raising project, which was done to protect homes and businesses from flooding, and the replacement of the Sioux Falls sanitary sewer, required the removal and replacement of the bike trail from the Great Plains Zoo to 57th Street and from the diversion dam to North Minnesota Avenue, said Miedema.

The trails also had to be closed between 41st Street and Sherman Park during the 41st Street bridge reconstruction.

This construction affected the O'Gorman cross country team, which often uses the three-mile stretch of trail south of the school for practice.

"The construction was annoying because we had to run through neighborhoods instead of using the bike trails," said sophomore team member Alyssa Bornhoft. "We prefer the trail because the scenery is nicer and we don't have to stop for traffic."

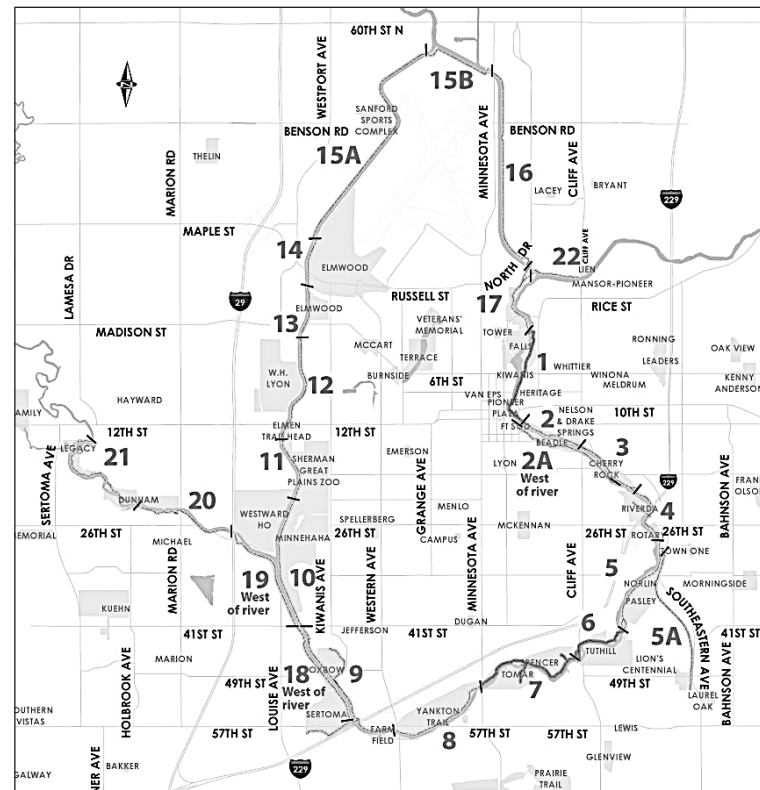
"Our typical [segment renovation] projects are short in du-

ration and typically shut the trail for a minimal amount of time," said Miedema. "The larger projects are a little frustrating because it takes a long time to make improvements, making for long closures of the trail."

The frustration is about to pay off though as the renovations near their end with only minor changes to the final two and a half miles of bike trail in the coming years.

"I used the trails less during construction, but it was definitely worth it," said Mr. Derek Robey, who uses the bike trails at least once a day. "As frustrating as it was to weave in and out of construction, the results are phenomenal. Our community is very fortunate to have the perfect 20 mile bike path that we have."

Future plans for the trail include connecting the trail to more neighborhoods and extending the trail past I-229 to Great Bear Recreation Park.



CITY OF SIOUX FALLS

The Sioux Falls bike trail is in its final stages of construction. The trail spans 19 miles, following the Big Sioux River around the city. It has been under construction for much of the last six years.



# Leaders, residents at odds on location of new pool facility

**SPELLERBERG:**  
Continued from page 1

The group members are not necessarily opposed to opening an indoor pool in Sioux Falls, but they feel Spellerberg Park is too small, traffic would cause issues, and there would not be enough parking space.

"If there's a pool added, Spellerberg is going to end up not having a park at all," said city councilman Kermit Staggers. "This is going to be a very large complex."

Through research and space calculations, the city still believes Spellerberg is the right location.

Because it is in central Sioux Falls, it's a good option for the first indoor pool the city has built, said Kearney. Kearney also said that by the city's calculations, there will be minimal impact on the amount of space.

Senior and competitive swimmer, Charlie Sommervold, says that he is in support of add-

ing a new indoor pool.

"We do not have a competitive pool that prepares people to get to a higher level in swimming," said Sommervold.

Sommervold also said that he believes that the addition of a new indoor aquatic center will not harm the park itself.

"I don't think it will be hurt, but it will be changed," said Sommervold.

There are other aspects about the new pool that are concerning some citizens.

"It'll cause friction among the politicians and the leaders of the city," said Sommervold.

City council members are hearing from groups that support the pool and groups against it, said Staggers. But for the most part he doesn't think the general population knows all that much about the new pool because they've been given little information.

"We're just given a lot of estimation," said Staggers about the lack of information.

**"We're just given a lot of estimation."**

**- Kermit Staggers**

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All letters should be short and concise. The writer should include a name and contact information. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, conventions and length.

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All editorials are the sole opinion of the writer and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of the O'Gorman faculty, administration or the Knight Scroll.

# Admin finds no information shortage with televisions for announcements

Marisa Moser  
Staff Writer

Administrators are continuing to evaluate the flow of information to students after new televisions were installed last school year.

The school first got the televisions in the spring of 2012. Televisions are located in the upper and lower wings, in the cafeteria and outside the administrative office.

"We started using the televisions to scroll announcements because it is another way to communicate with students about activities and opportunities within our school community," said assistant principal Joan Mahoney.

She said many other schools have begun to use this method. She believes the televisions deliver announcements in a convenient and creative way.

"The televisions give the stu-

dents lots of information when and where they want it. They can choose to watch them or not, so they can control the message."

Some students agree with Mahoney and find the televisions easier and more accessible.

"I like having the televisions for announcements," said sophomore Hannah Messier. "I think they are helpful because you can read an announcement again, while you can't if you hear it over an intercom."

She also said that when announcements were displayed on the televisions, it didn't disrupt classes.

"I think that if there were anything to improve, it would be putting the lunch menu for the day on the televisions as well as the other announcements," said Messier.

Although some students liked the new way of receiving announcements, some found it in-

convenient.

"They change so fast that I can't get the information," said sophomore and student council member Mattie Penisten. "I'd rather they be read in class."

Penisten also said the student council was considering adding more information about events rather than just teachers' announcements.

Mahoney believes that a balance between methods is the key. "I think we need to use as many avenues as possible for communicating with our students," said Mahoney. "I think the written announcements in the morning, the televisions scrolling announcements throughout the day, and the verbal announcements in the afternoon all combine to give our students as much information as possible on a daily basis. The televisions are not the only answer, but they are part of the answer."

## Pizza Ranch - 41st Street, Sioux Falls Home of Legendary Pizza, Chicken, Salad & Buffet!

*Around these parts,  
Pizza Ranch has become a legend!*

Pizza Ranch began in Hull, Iowa, in 1981, as an idea of Adrie Groeneweg, who was just 19 years old. The first menu was developed by Lorraine Groeneweg, Adrie's mother, and included six specialty pizzas and single topping pizzas. The sauce and the dough were made from scratch, and the cheese grated by hand, while other ingredients were purchased or pre-made. People tried Pizza Ranch – and they loved it! Pizza Ranch grew and grew. Today Pizza Ranch extends into eleven states and is the largest regional pizza restaurant chain in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Over the years, changes have been made to virtually every aspect of Pizza Ranch's products, services and operations. Because guest satisfaction is one of the focal points at Pizza Ranch, we continuously make changes to increase consistency, efficiency, quality and selection.



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**There's something for everyone  
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in Sioux Falls!**



## Pope calls Catholics to celebrate year of faith

Haley Heiberger  
Faith Co-Editor

On Oct. 11, Pope Benedict XVI instituted a year of faith for the Catholic Church.

"The reason this year is different is that it's challenging us to a higher level of participation in the Church," said Mr. Jon Konz. "If the Pope feels a need for it, there must truly be a need."

It is not often a year is dedicated to such a cause. The anniversary of the Second Vatican Council marked the beginning of the year.

"If today the Church proposes a new Year of Faith and a new evangelization, it is not to honour an anniversary, but because there is more need of it," said Pope Benedict XVI in his homily at the Mass opening the year of faith.

"I'm excited for the year. There are a lot of things we can do to strengthen our faith," said junior Nicole Clemen.

We are encouraged to pray the Creed, read the Catechism and pray daily, said Konz.

## Nation celebrates 40 Days for Life

Connor Nagel  
Staff Writer

Catholic schools and churches around the nation are praying fervently as the last few days of Forty Days for Life come to an end.

Forty Days for Life started in 2004 at Bryan College Station, Texas. Since then 13 countries are participating, including 49 U.S. states.

"The goal of Forty Days for Life is to end abortion and to change the hearts of those who are involved, in any way, with the abortion industry," said Father Desmond.

Twenty-four abortion facilities have shut down since 2004 and 69 abortion employees have left their positions.

"I think that a continued awareness of the injustice of abortion is necessary in order to change not only laws, but to convert the hearts and minds of people," said O'Gorman theology teacher Michelle Shields.

Catholics believe that all life is valuable, and people have been coming together all around the world to display this.

There are many ways for people to help out, such as standing in front of abortion centers or participating in group prayers. Even simply taking time to pray for unborn babies is a good way



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students and other members of the community gathered outside Planned Parenthood to pray for an end to abortion as part of the Student Rally for Life and Forty Days for Life campaign on Nov. 3.

to get involved.

"I feel like it's a great way to help women and help them change their minds," said senior David Koch.

"The program is having a great impact on the entire world because it provides, in a very nonviolent and loving way, encouraging alternatives to ending unwanted lives," said Desmond.

"I feel like they haven't done

enough, because I have barely been informed," said Koch. Students' own parishes have active groups participating in Forty Days for Life, and O'Gorman has also informed students.

The church also helps in many ways. "The church has speakers come into the parish to better inform the parishioners and pastors on the subject," said Desmond.

With so much going on in the life of a teenager, it's difficult to participate in Forty Days for Life, but many students and teachers are still trying to have an impact and be involved with the program.

"I have never prayed outside an abortion clinic, but I have prayed several times for the unborn and their mothers. Anyone is capable of doing that," said Koch.

## Pope Benedict XVI canonizes saints; Native American among additions

Haley Heiberger  
Faith Co-Editor

Beatified by Blessed Pope John Paul II in 1980, St. Kateri Tekakwitha was added to the ranks of canonized Saints after a 30-year-long process.

Continuing his predecessor's work with canonizing many Saints, Pope Benedict XVI canonized seven new Saints, along with St. Kateri on Oct. 21, 2012.

St. Kateri was one of the two canonized that had ties to the United States. The Lily of the Mohawks was born in territory which later became part of New York, and she lived her later life with a group of Catholics in Canada.

"She's awesome," said junior Joseph Sulaiman. "It's exciting to have such a different Saint, especially one from North America."

St. Kateri's canonization attracted many from the United States, including many who share Native American heritage.

"It's really great that there's a Saint from America," said senior Taryn Blanchard. "It seems like most Saints are from other countries, so this is very cool for America."

After years of holding the title of the first beatified Native American, St. Kateri now holds the position as the first Native American Saint.

St. Kateri suffered from smallpox during her lifetime, and she bore scars on her face from the effects of the disease.

St. Kateri's intercession helped to cure a young



PRESS PHOTO

St. Kateri Tekakwitha

boy of a flesh-eating bacteria in 2006. This miracle was confirmed by Pope Benedict XVI and finished the canonization process for the new Saint.

"She and all Saints are very inspiring," said junior Isaiah Lamb. "Each and every story is unique and interesting."

## Sioux Falls, Aberdeen among S.D. cities starting Catholic radio

Carolyn Frederick  
Entertainment Co-Editor

Catholic radio is coming to the diocese of Sioux Falls this spring.

The station is called "The Lamb" on KSTJ 91.3 FM.

The station, which has begun broadcasting in Aberdeen, S.D., is scheduled to begin broadcasting in Sioux Falls in April or May, allowing everyone in the diocese to tune in.

Listeners will also have the opportunity to call in and express their opinions about their Catholic faith.

The Catholic radio is brought to eastern South Dakota by Margi and Kevin Culhane of Agnus Dei Communications.

This has been a long term progress that has been held off because of failure of funding. Up to \$1.3 million dollars are needed in order to start it up.

"Pope Benedict XVI has called us to the New Evangelization. Catholic Radio will be a

wonderful communications vehicle to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ," said Bishop Paul J. Swain in the Bishop's Bulletin.

This station will include both national and local Catholic programming, including Vatican news.

As part of the program, the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be recited. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will also be aired, and priests and bishops will be broadcasting with information.

"It is important for the people who reside in the diocese because there are 16,000 commercial and non-commercial radio stations in the country today, about 1,600-1,700 of those are Christian radio stations. Only 185 are Catholic radio stations," said M. Culhane in the Bishop's Bulletin.

The station will be participating in the new evangelization, as well as incorporating the Catholic message in the media through the radio.



## No lie: *Pinocchio* hits stage

### Show provides new challenges for set designers, costumers

Sam Breske  
Opinion Co-Editor

This year's children's show will be a reenactment of the classic tale of *Pinocchio*. The show will open on Friday, Dec. 7 with additional showings on Saturday and Sunday.

The show, directed by Mr. Scott Nelson, tells the story of an animated puppet that embarks on a journey to become a real boy.

On this journey he encounters many challenges; he meets mischievous children, a conniving cat and fox, and a hungry whale. He is accompanied by his friends Jiminy Cricket and the Blue Fairy.

In the end, *Pinocchio*'s bravery in the face of adversity allows him to become a real boy.

Cast member Alex Shields is very excited to be recreating such a popular story.

"The fact that everyone is familiar with the story will make this show even better," said Shields.

Shields will be portraying *Pinocchio*'s conscience, Jiminy

Cricket.

"I really love acting as Jiminy Cricket," Shields said.

Filling the lead role of *Pinocchio* is sophomore Quinn Schoenfelder.

"I am honored to play *Pinocchio*, and I am going to work very hard to make sure I do the best job possible," said Schoenfelder.

The rest of the cast shares in Schoenfelder's confidence. "Quinn is more than capable of handling such a large role," said senior Haley Maxwell.

Still, the primary focus is on the show itself.

"This show encompasses a wide variety of characters, which always makes for an exciting children's show. From puppets to crickets, there is a role that everyone can fall in love with," said Maxwell.

*Pinocchio* has several different settings. This includes Gepetto's workshop, a road, the outside of a puppet theater, the land of the Dingalings, and under the sea, which will feature a special appearance from a whale.

Such a multitude of different settings creates a lot of work for members of the tech crew.

The costumers also have a tough job to do. There is a total of 39 cast members to account for, each with unique costumes.

The actors understand that the success of the show is largely reliant on the tech crew and the costumers.

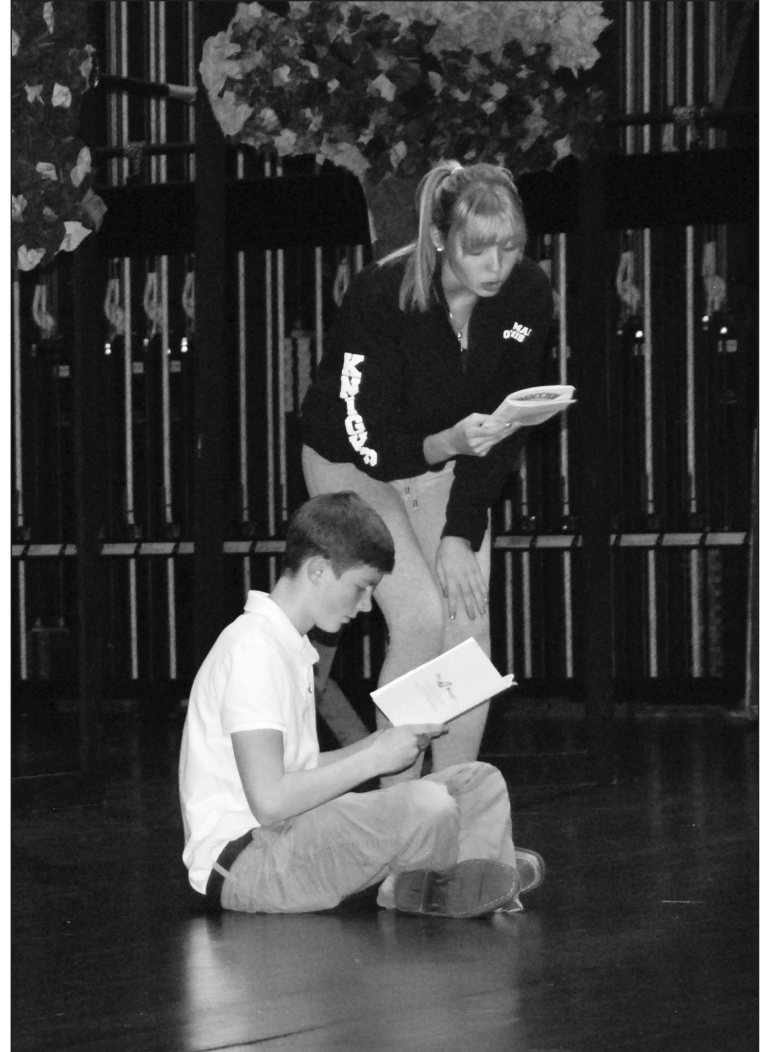
"Actors, techies, and costumers must work as a cohesive unit to create a successful show," said Maxwell.

The show has raised much excitement throughout the student body.

"*Pinocchio* is one of my all-time favorite movies," said senior Mark Haiar. "I can't wait to see it performed by O'Gorman students."

Students, both actors and audience members, are looking forward to seeing the final product of the efforts of the cast and crew.

"There is no doubt in my mind that this will be a good show," said Schoenfelder.



SAM BRESKE / KNIGHT SCROLL

Cast members Quinn Schoenfelder and Alexis Kosiak rehearse a scene from the upcoming children's show *Pinocchio*. The show runs Dec. 7-9 in the O'Gorman Performing Arts Center.

## Vespers makes switch from Cathedral to PAC

Miranda Masek  
Editor-in-Chief

Due to scheduling difficulties, an O'Gorman choral tradition has to come to an end.

Vespers, the Christmas concert and prayer service the O'Gorman High School chorus department puts on every year, is usually held at St. Joseph's Cathedral. This year, however, it didn't work out.

"Because of the children's play, we had to move the concert," said choral director Cathy Britton. "The new date then conflicted with Christmas at the Cathedral."

Christmas at the Cathedral is a musical event performed at the cathedral with sold-out shows of acclaimed singers celebrating Christmas through song.

Concert choir is usually a part of Christmas at the Cathedral, but the scheduling of Vespers also conflicted with the show, which runs Dec. 15-18. As a result, the choir cannot perform – leaving its sole Christmas performance to Vespers.

The performance is instead being held at the cathedral, while Vespers is in the Dr. Tom and Penny Lorang Perform-

ing Arts Center at O'Gorman on Dec. 12.

According to senior Mickey McGrann, there are some benefits to the switch.

"I think it will be easier," said McGrann, senior member of concert choir. "The PAC is more accessible for the choir."

Not all students are for the new locale, however.

"I feel like Vespers is usually in a church and it won't feel as welcoming and Christmasy," said Theresa Lehen, also a senior in concert choir.

The chorus department will stick to tradition, however, and the venue will not affect the structure of the performance. Despite the changed location, Vespers will remain both a prayer service and a concert.

"It will still be a service, just in a little different venue," said Britton.

Though the chorus schedule and shows will be different, Britton plans to continue tradition with the quality of performance.

"Regardless of where it is, it will brighten your holiday season," said Lehen.



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### Upcoming Visit Days

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## Life runners stride to raise awareness for pro-life cause

Kayler Nelson  
Opinion Co-Editor

O'Gorman High School sets itself apart from other schools in the nation by drawing awareness to a nationally controversial topic: abortion. O'Gorman students joined the Life Runners team in recognition of a pro-life cause.

O'Gorman High School's chapter began when Dr. Pat Castle, co-founder and president of the Life Runners group, spoke at O'Gorman's annual Awareness Day last year. His speech sparked inspiration for students at O'Gorman to protect the lives of unborn children.

"Life Runners are Life Group Devotions members who pray, raise funds and run all in Christ for pro-life," said Steve Castle, the vice president of finance for

Life Runners.

The group, consisting of approximately 1,000 runners and 31 chapters, is raising awareness not only throughout the United States, but also in Canada, Singapore and Turkey.

O'Gorman is the only high school in the nation involved in the Life Runners team.

Although the Life Runners are represented through many different members, they are all united through a common mission.

"We run to proclaim the message of pro-life, we run to do our part in putting an end to abortion," said junior Alexis Soldatke, member of Life Runners.

"We were just a handful of pro-life Christians who wanted to do something for the cause of life that combined our great faith and our passion for running."

## Club pursues new avenues for artistic creation, growth

Connor Johnson  
Activities Co-Editor

Since the creation of the art club, students have had a place where they can participate in the visual arts.

Mr. Gary Siska said that the main purpose of the art club was to give students who could not fit an art class into their schedule a chance to have some form of art.

Many of the students who participate in the art club do so for their own reasons. "I can't fit any art in [my schedule] and Mr. Siska is a pretty cool cat," said junior Will Tiensvold.

"I like to spend time with Mr. Siska because he is a cool guy," said junior Maureen Hurley.

Outside of his normal teaching day Mr. Siska enjoys hosting the art club.

"You get to meet students out of the classroom setting," said Siska. "I am able to relax and the kids get to do things not for a



CONNOR JOHNSON / KNIGHT SCROLL

Mr. Siska explains a drawing activity to art club members. The art club has continued to expand and evolve since it began.

grade but for fun."

The art club has taken part in various school activities as well. They have done face painting and air brush tattoos at Dakota Bowl and homecoming festivities.

Members of the club want to see it continue to grow. "There

are not enough people coming [to art club]," said Tiensvold. His hope is to see members continue to join.

Siska also said he wants the art club to be a service group doing projects for the public as a way to spread the visual arts.

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# Knights prepare to defend title

Leah Billion  
Faith Co-Editor

After winning three straight state titles, the Knights boys basketball team is gearing up for what they hope will be another successful season.

Head coach Derek Robey has led his preceding teams to five state championships over the past seven years, arguably the best run in the history of AA basketball.

"A drawback to being three-peat state champions and having a successful run the last few seasons is that now everyone will be out to get the Knights, and OG knows they must be ready for this challenge," says Robey.

In order to carry on this legacy, the team is counting on the hard work and dedication of many young players.

"All of the younger teams in the Knights' program had real solid seasons a year ago and O'Gorman feels they certainly have inexperienced talent spread throughout the program," says Robey.

With only one returning starter, senior Tyler Pals, the young players will be instrumental in the outcome of the season. Though the team is sad to see last year's seniors go, they are ready to step up and prove themselves.

"We lost a good group of seniors, but we have all been working hard to fill those open spots," says junior Tommy Entwistle.

Last season's championship team faced many of the same challenges at the beginning of the season. They were coming off the loss of a talented group of seniors and were overlooked before even stepping on the court. Robey and

his team hope to surprise people once again.

"We play our best when the odds are against us, and I know we will be able to accept the challenge," says Pals.

The Knights will have to work hard and focus on their goals as a team, rather than individuals, in order to reach the standards they have set for themselves.

"The Knights feel confident that they will groom some of these new players and give them the experience needed to keep OG as competitive as in the years past," says Robey.

Roosevelt is expected to be one of the toughest teams on the Knights' schedule this year. The Riders have an experienced lineup and many skilled players, but the Knights are confident they will be able to compete with them.

The team knows that no opponent can be overlooked, and the players must come to each game ready to play to the best of their abilities.

"The team must be mentally and physically ready for every challenge," says Robey.

Robey and the team have already begun working hard to ensure the continued success of the program. The Knights are ready to prove themselves yet again.

"I think people will be in for a surprise when they play us," says Pals.



Tyler Pals is the only returning starter for the Knights this year. The team has won five of the last seven state titles.

## Bar set high for team filled with young talent

Marissa Tran  
Entertainment Co-Editor

Coming off of a sixth place state tournament finish last spring and the loss of key player Chandler Nielsen, the Lady Knights enter the new season with young talent.

The team has lost a total of eight seniors and five starters from last year's team. Veteran coach Kent Kolsrud has high hopes for this young team.

"We have a lot of talent in our program," said Kolsrud. "We will be young and inexperienced at the varsity level, but these kids have played a lot of basketball over the years and are excited to prove themselves as good varsity

players."

After battling through concussion symptoms last year, senior Allie Kneip returns to lead the young team.

"Our main goal is to get to the state tournament, but that's a long ways away," said Kneip.

"For now we just want to work hard and concentrate on building team chemistry."

Sophomores Jessica Mieras and Dalee Stene will also be major contributors to the success of this year's team.

Practice for the Lady Knights started on Nov. 19. "We want to become the best basketball team we can be," said Kolsrud. "I know this group has high expectations and expects to be extremely

competitive every night."

The Lady Knights start their four month season at home with games against Rapid City Central on Dec. 7 and Rapid City Stevens on Dec. 8.

Following these games is rival Sioux Falls Roosevelt at home on Dec. 13.

"These three opponents will be a great test for our basketball team to open the season," said Kolsrud.

"We have to be prepared for these games coming in as a really young team," said Kneip.

"Being the only senior, we'll have a lot of returning players that will contribute to the success of our team."

## New practice room greets wrestling team for upcoming season

Miranda Masek  
Editor-in-Chief

New, larger wrestling facilities improve training techniques as the season fires up, benefitting the entire team.

With more space to utilize, the team can train in different ways to prepare for the winter season.

"It makes it so we are able to run longer sprints and try new conditioning exercises," said varsity wrestler Conor Tomac.

The space also changes the way practices will be organized.

"Experts suggest that two-thirds of a wrestling practice should involve practicing takedowns. Doing this becomes challenging in a limited space environment," said Jeff Gordon, wres-

ting coach. "Our greatly increased space will help with this."

In addition, the team can come together better with the unified practice space.

"All of the junior high and high school wrestlers can wrestle in the same room so the junior high kids no longer have to practice in the cafeteria," said Tomac.

Gordon agrees. "The same facility will help build team unity."

"With a better room we get better conditioning for a larger portion of our team," said Tomac. "With that conditioning you can go strong and wrestle through the entire six minute match, getting you more wins and more pins."

"The room means nothing if you don't put forth the personal time, effort, and discipline."





SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Volleyball team members celebrate after scoring a point against Watertown in the state tournament. The Lady Knights lost to Watertown in the first round of the tournament and placed sixth overall.

# Lady Knights stunned in opener at state, finish in sixth place with consolation loss

Carolyn Frederick  
Entertainment Co-Editor

The Watertown Arrows shocked the Lady Knights by pulling off a major upset at the state volleyball tournament in Rapid City Nov. 15.

It was a stunning victory for the Arrows, as they managed to knock off the top-seeded Lady Knights.

After starting off the 2012 season 18-2, the Lady Knights entered the state tournament as the number one seed.

And after one of the best regular seasons in school history, the

Lady Knights claimed the district IAA crown with wins over Watertown and Sioux Falls Roosevelt.

“I feel like they really wanted it in districts,” said team manager Monica Schnetter. “When they beat Roosevelt they were hungry for the overall state title.”

But their district success didn’t carry over to the state tournament.

After claiming an early 25-15 win in game one, the Lady Knights went on to lose three straight games to Watertown 25-21, 25-21, 25-17 in first round state tournament action.

“We had such high expectations, and after that first game our hearts were broken,” said senior Kelsey Pudenz.

In the consolation matchup against Mitchell, O’Gorman won 25-16, 25-18, 25-22.

“Our losses helped build our character,” said junior Dalee Stene. “Although they were hard, we would try to take something positive from them and improve for the next game.”

Following the Mitchell win, the Lady Knights played Aberdeen Central for the consolation title.

Aberdeen downed the Lady

Knights in three straight sets, 25-22, 25-21, 25-21.

The team wasn’t completely disappointed in its sixth place finish.

“I couldn’t be prouder, though, because I think the program finally has some hope now,” said Pudenz. “We had a great season. I just wish it would have ended on a high note.”

And team members are already setting their sights on 2013.

“I think state will be different next year because we really want to win. So we are going to work that much harder to accomplish that goal,” said Stene.

## Early loss followed up by big wins for bowlers

Connor Johnson  
Activities Co-Editor

After an early loss to Harrisburg, the O’Gorman bowling team is making a strong comeback.

“I think we will do good but we got off to a bad start,” said junior Nole Harrington.

In its first match of the season, the bowling team lost 37-13 to Harrisburg.

“I don’t think it went too bad,” said senior Cort Hanson, “It came down to a lot of spares.”

Hanson hopes to lead the team to success this year with an optimistic attitude and by playing to the team’s strengths.

“We have a lot of potential,” said Hanson. “It will come down to spares and team unity.”

Since the Harrisburg match, the bowlers have come back with dominating wins over both Hartford and Dell Rapids.

In the season’s second match, the bowlers downed Hartford 48-2. Following that victory, the team shut out Dell Rapids 50-0.

The team is made up by mostly veteran bowlers. Returning team members plan on leading the team with experience.

Young team members are optimistic as well. “I think we are going to do great this year,” said freshman Taryn Sakry.

Overall, the team believes existing talent and unity will be the key to a successful season.

After their 2-1 start against out of town opponents, the bowlers will face off with in-city rival Lincoln.

# Washington rolls over Knights in semifinals

Pierce Edman  
Sports Co-Editor

A heavily favored Washington team rolled past the Knights 49-3 in semifinal action as the Warriors earned a trip to the IIAA championship game against Brandon Valley.

After an inconsistent regular season that saw a three game losing streak followed by a six game winning streak, the Knights entered the playoffs as the fourth seed.

In first round action, the Knights narrowly defeated Yankton 21-17. Yankton was ranked number five going into the game.

The Bucks scored first and gained a 7-0 lead. O’Gorman answered quickly with a touchdown of their own. The Knights were down 17-7 at halftime.

O’Gorman had their work cut out for them going into the second half. The Knights defense dominated the Yankton offense. They didn’t allow the Bucks in the end zone.

O’Gorman’s offense also stepped up in the final half. They scored two more touchdowns and gained the lead. The final score was 21-17.

The Knights then played an athletic Washington squad in the semifinals. They were ranked number one going into the playoffs after they successfully completed an undefeated season.

The Warriors jumped out to a big lead in the first half. The Knights ended the first half scoreless, and down by 21 points.

The Warriors ran back three kicks during the game. The game ended with a score of 49-3.

“We had a rough start to the season but we got it together and went on a seven game win streak,” said senior defensive back and wide receiver Mark Haiar. “We ended up losing to the hands down best team in the state.”

“I was proud of how we came together as a team after our first few losses,” said senior wide receiver and defensive back Tyler Pals. “We tried our best, but we didn’t come out on top.”

Season Scores		
Regular Season		
Brandon Valley	18-15	L
S.F. Roosevelt	19-7	L
S.F. Washington	24-0	L
R.C. Stevens	42-0	W
Sturgis	50-0	W
Brookings	35-19	W
R.C. Central	28-0	W
Aberdeen Central	11-0	W
S.F. Lincoln	29-15	W
Quarterfinal Playoffs		
Yankton	21-17	W
Semifinal Playoffs		
S.F. Washington	49-3	L
2012 Final Record: 7-4		



# Senior lands modeling gig in L.A.

Samantha Lenz  
Staff Writer

Taylor Johnson didn't realize that tagging along with her brother to an audition would land her in Los Angeles working as a model.

"Although this may sound strange, the desire to become a model never even crossed my mind," said Johnson.

It all began when a premier talent school named John Robert Powers came to Sioux Falls to audition people to go to the national iPOP! convention in Los Angeles, Calif.

The International Presentation of Performers (iPOP!) is held to allow individuals to showcase themselves in front of producers and managers.

It was just by chance that morning Johnson decided to accompany her younger brother Caden to his audition. After Johnson decided to audition, she received a call back. Out of 600 that were present, 25 were chosen. After a regional showcase, only 10 including Johnson were selected to go to the convention in L.A.

Since then Johnson has relocated from Sioux Falls to Los Angeles, leaving O'Gorman High School and her family behind for the perceived glamorous life of

L.A. Johnson's experience has been different.

"Coming from South Dakota, it looks extremely high-end and glamorous. To be honest, it wasn't," said Johnson. "There's so much more work to be done than I expected. It is a hard and long road to make it in this industry and after almost a year, I have just begun to skim the surface."

Although Johnson's journey has just begun, she has already experienced success. In previous months she has been featured in a national Sears ad, Michael Kors, Parade, Closet Signature, Teen Prom and Industry Magazine.

"My agency is currently taking me down two different paths. They partially have me going to castings for the young all-American clients," said Johnson. "The rest of the castings are for clients that want the artistic, grungy and edgy looks."

"I have quickly grown to love everything fashion," said Johnson. "A majority of the time, it doesn't matter to me what brand I'm wearing or what style, I just love being able to work."

A few short months ago Johnson was a typical high school student, going to class and extracurricular activities, but now she spends her days going to castings, jobs or test shoots. Although Johnson's work schedule



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Senior Taylor Johnson is on set at a Teen Prom magazine shoot. Johnson's journey started after accompanying her brother to a talent show audition.

can be very demanding, she does set time aside to do her homework.

She is currently enrolled in an independent study program to finish her final two credits to graduate. "Although I will technically be done by December, I will walk with [O'Gorman's] class of 2013. I can't wait," said Johnson.

When Johnson is not modeling she spends her time acting and hosting shows. She also enjoys hiking, shopping, lying on the beach and cooking.

Johnson had the opportunity to meet celebrities such as Davis Cleveland from *Shake It Up* on Disney Channel and Tom DeSanto, the writer and producer of the *X-Men* and *Transformer* movies. On multiple occasions she has seen Mario Lopez (Host of *The X-Factor*), Emma Stone (*Easy A*) among other celebrities.

Johnson has accomplished many of her goals, which leaves her to decide what's next.

"I truly have no idea where it will go or even where I would

want my career to go. Yes I would love to be working all the time and traveling the world, but everything takes time. There's thousands of girls all trying to achieve the same dream," said Johnson.

"Although I did not want this at first, I have grown to love it so much and have met so many people along the way. Since I have taken the plunge financially and emotionally and have made it this far, I do not see myself stopping anytime soon."

## Students trade pop for Christmas music during holiday season

Leah Billion  
Faith Co-Editor

It happens every year: the lively Christmas music debate. Just how early is too early to break out the Mannheim Steamroller and Tony Bennett albums?

Many avid Christmas fanatics see no shame in belting those holiday carols as early as October. Seniors Abby Johnson and Lacey Cink have been anticipating the holidays for months.

"Christmas music has no season. It is meant to be listened to year round," said Cink.

Many artists, including CeeLo Green, Colbie Caillat, Christina Peri, Blake Shelton and Lady Antabellum, have announced the release of their 2012 holiday albums.

While new Christmas covers are often refreshing takes on nostalgic tunes, Christmas lovers agree that the classics are what really bring the spirit of the season.

"I loved 'Forget You', but I just can't justify listening to a CeeLo Green Christmas album when I could be treating myself to Josh Groban's Noel," said Johnson.

Michael Bublé's *Christmas*, released in 2011, incorporated the best of both worlds. With his Sinatra-esque take on numerous Christmas favorites, it is no wonder the album was the bestselling holiday album of the year.

"That album was an instant classic. It sounds just like the Christmas music my parents have been playing since I was a kid. It's just comforting," says Cink.

While the release of new Christmas albums is exciting, nothing can compare to the heartwarming sounds of Andy Williams that listeners everywhere have come to know and love.

This Christmas season, take a peek at CeeLo's Magic Moment and Colbie Caillat's Christmas in the Sand, but don't stray away from those Christmas classics that make the season what it is.

## Move over Harry Potter, Twilight: Superheroes stealing limelight

Mark Yeager  
Activities Co-Editor

The superhero movie craze is stronger than ever this year. With recent iconic films such as *The Dark Knight Rises* and *The Avengers*, the hype of these classic heroes grows stronger still.

Not long ago few of the fans of *The Avengers* might have known who Thor was or how Captain America got his powers or who Iron Man's enemies were.

Superhero movies have been around for a long time, however the excitement surrounding them was noticeably less than that of more recent films.

Senior Mason Walker is a fan of superhero movies. "I like the craze because it allows people to get involved and to get to know the characters' backgrounds," said Walker. "During the first *Dark Knight* movie the

craze began and by the second movie it was easy to notice the excitement."

Some fans, however, are concerned about the momentum that comic book

**"I like the craze because it allows people to get involved."**

**- Mason Walker**

movies have picked up and question the necessity of rebooting recently made series.

*The Amazing Spider-Man* which was recently released takes place in a different dimension than the previous three *Spider-Man* movies that starred Tobey Maguire. Some wonder as to why the series needed a

reboot so soon after the last installment.

The new *Spider-Man* is based more on realism and changes not only Peter Parker's occupation, but also his background story. Rebooting a series allows companies to go in a new direction with an existent hero.

The craze has also supplied an opportunity for movies to be released that star heroes who are less well known. Those include *Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance* and *Deadpool*.

These movies hope to ride the excitement of superhero movies that is currently in the air. Not all of these attempts succeed, but they bring new heroes to the big screen.

The hype will continue into 2013 as fans get ready for the upcoming titles: *Iron Man 3*, *The Wolverine*, *Deadpool* and *Man of Steel*.





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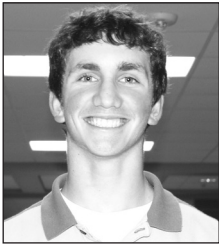
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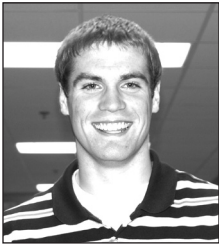
If you could go anywhere for Christmas break, where would you go?



“Lemmon, SD. They have the largest petrified wood museum.”  
-Luke Fritsch



“New York City. The snow is pretty in the winter.”  
-Alyse Brown



“Canada. They aren’t on a hockey strike.”  
-Isaac Althoff



“Hogwarts. Because why not?”  
-Aimee Bannwarth



“Wisconsin. So I can see my mama.”  
-Mr. Rozeboom

In & Out

Basketball	Football
Nate Silver	Karl Rove
Video Games	Social Life
Holiday Shopping	Manners
Christmas Break	Semester Tests
Barack Obama	Mitt Romney
Tranzit	Nacht Der Untoten
Snow	Happiness
Thrift shopping	\$50 T-Shirts
The Hobbit	Breaking Dawn
Notre Dame	Conference Schedule
12/21/2012	Humanity

Organ donation recipients get second chance at life

Kayler Nelson  
Opinion Co-Editor

When people first hear the words “the gift of life” the thought that usually comes to mind is conception, where life begins. Does anyone really consider how the gift of life can be given in other ways?

Organ donation is a very important topic, but, unfortunately, it is scarcely recognized. According to the United Network for Organ Sharing, there are currently 116,479 Americans who are waiting for an organ donation to save their lives.

Since she was 16 years old, my mother had been battling serious health challenges. Her poor health eventually led her into complete renal failure, or kidney failure. I never realized how important it was for my mom to get a kidney transplant until I had been sitting at her side for a year watching her receive dialysis from a machine that would perform the functions of the kidneys.

Up in the dialysis room at the hospital it was astonishing to see how many other people were receiving dialysis and were in need of a kidney transplant. It was a remarkably humbling experience to see what trials others were persevering through. It

really puts into perspective an appreciation for everything that others have been blessed with.

On Dec. 14, 2011 my mom received a kidney transplant from my grandmother. It was incredible to see how the quality of life for my mom increased so much after her transplant. She’s happy, she’s healthy, she feels great and she is finally able to do everything that kidney failure was restraining her from.

My mom had this to share about here experience: “I am so thankful for my kidney failure. It allowed me to see how God’s hands are working in me, in others, and His true sovereignty.”

It’s nearly incomprehensible how my grandmother gave my mom the gift of life, two different times.

Others, however, have not been so lucky. Many men and women across America will spend painful years in organ failure because of the difficulty in finding an adequate donor. A heightened sense of awareness needs to be drawn to this national epidemic.

“Signing up to be an organ donor is one of the most generous things one can do,” said Kristin Zueger, registered organ donor. “I believe we all need to do our part to prevent the needless deaths of people who are in need of transplants.”

Many men and women don’t have the same luck with finding a donor as my mom did. Unfortunately, many die every day in the hopes of finding that one special match.

“Organ donation is so important because numerous people die every day waiting for a transplant,” said Beth Erickson, kidney transplant recipient.

Erickson received a kidney last February from a man who died due to a fatal gun shot wound. He had acknowledged his wishes to be an organ donor. “I will be eternally grateful, as will my family and friends, and I pray daily for my donor and his family.”

Raising awareness to the importance of organ donation can simply be done by marking the “donor” box of your driver’s license. If organ donation has ever been a consideration, it is essential to express your wishes to family because sometimes a check on a box just doesn’t do the job.

Being a registered organ donor, raising awareness for organ donation or even donating an organ to someone in need is a selfless, yet significant gesture. Although you will be giving something away, the benefits you will reap from saving a life will more than compensate for the organ that was so generously sacrificed.

Texting ban only works if enforced

Staff Editorial

City legislators recently passed a ban on texting and driving. While there are no apparent negative side-effects of this ban, there remains to be seen any real enforcement of the ban. Essentially, the ban is a measure to protect us from ourselves. It is different, however, from other laws that serve the same purpose. Laws that make the use

of harmful substances illegal are much more necessary because of the prevalence and addictiveness of such drugs. Texting and driving, on the other hand, lacks even perceived benefits, and is in no way addicting. It’s all risk - no reward. The logic behind why we text and drive is disappointing in and of itself. Our generation is so reliant on technology that we cannot even interrupt the inundation of

information for long enough to drive safely from point A to B. It is also important to take into account the potential damage that could be inflicted on other drivers. If you won’t stop texting and driving for your own safety at least do it for the safety of others. In order to ensure the safety of drivers, policemen have to enforce this law. Regardless of the perceived gravity of texting and

driving, it must be understood that all laws will be devotedly enforced. The only way the intent of the law will be recognized is if people believe that it carries the weight assigned to it. At this point, no tickets have been issued. This must change before any significant change can happen. We shouldn’t need laws to prevent us from doing stupid and potentially life threatening

things. But we as a society are often slow to learn. From this point forward, two things must happen. First, citizens in Sioux Falls need to stop texting and driving. Second, Sioux Falls police officers need to start enforcing the ban. After events this past summer that left a motorcyclist dead because of someone texting, it’s time that everyone steps up.



# Schools implement new standards

## Teachers, students across nation adjust to new curriculum changes

Chris Angerhofer  
Staff Writer

Students may find their math and English classes this year are more challenging than previous years. The new Common Core standards are state-led initiatives that are an optional but likely choice for states to adopt for their schools.

The new standards focus specifically on the math and English curriculum. Put together by teachers, administrators and experts, "the Common Core State Standards establish fewer, clearer, and higher standards," said Sharon Schueler, Director of Sioux Falls School District Curriculum Services. "Students are experiencing more written and open-ended tasks in English language arts and mathematics."

For instance, in math, concepts that were previously taught in Pre-Calculus are being taught in Algebra II. In English, group work is emphasized and more

nonfiction is being incorporated. The classes are staying the same, but students are in some cases learning a year ahead of what they are now.

As with every change, there are pros and cons. Students moving from state to state are now on the same academic level and will have an easier time transitioning. The current move also provides challenges for both students and teachers.

"We have to study the standards and make sure that our textbook covers the standards," said Darlene Dunn, math teacher, when asked what needs to be done to bring these standards into the classroom. Teachers over the summer had a week long workshop dedicated to finding a book to fit the new curriculum.

New books may seem like a blessing to students, but all of this really wasn't what they were looking for. "It weighs more than any other book I have," said Andrew Mohama, sophomore. The

new standards introduce more material than students have seen in the past. "It's a rude awakening to some students," said Dunn.

Teachers are hitting the books as well. "The district is provid-

**"It's a rude awakening to some students."**

**- Mrs. Darlene Dunn**

ing professional development to teachers on the understanding, implementing and sustaining of the CCSS to make a successful transition as a result of the "Investing in Teachers" opportunity by the South Dakota Department of Education," said Schueler.

A concern mentioned on the

Common Core standards website is that the standards may be dumbing down the curriculum. According to the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, "the Common Core State Standards have been built from the best and highest state standards in the country."

Some criteria for the standards includes that it be consistent throughout all states, clear, and that they ready students for college and career success.

"The Common Core will be more rigorous than the state's current math standards," said Becky Nelson, expert on standards working with the South Dakota Department of Education.

Another change will be standardized testing. With the new standards, states will be collaborating to form new tests to challenge students.

Consorting with the other states on assessment tests will also save money. The Dakota

Step will be replaced, although this won't happen for a couple of years.

The entire transition will not be complete for a predicted 10 years. The students that will be most comfortable with the new standards will be the students in first grade right now, said Schueler. They will have adapted to the standards because it's all they will have known.

For the Sioux Falls School District, Grades K-12 have already begun using the new standards for their English.

O'Gorman teachers are also well on their way to incorporating the new standards. "It's slower to incorporate for English. There haven't been many big changes yet," said English teacher Doug Basche.

Right now, currently 45 states in the United States and three territories have adopted the standards. Those who have not are Alaska, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas and Virginia.

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